**Introduction of VRS in Central Government Offices**

†1484. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final opinion has been made to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the Central Government Offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No proposal is under consideration of the Government to introduce a new Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the Central Government Offices.

(b) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) At present two voluntary retirement schemes are available. One is under rule 48-A of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 which permits a Government servant to seek voluntary retirement after completion of 20 years' qualifying service subject to fulfilling the conditions laid down in the rule and the second is special Voluntary Retirement Scheme for surplus Central Government employees introduced *vide* Government of India O.M. No. 25013/6/2001-Estt(A) dated 28.2.2002. These two schemes adequately meet the requirements.

**Prosecution cases against senior officials**

1485. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CVC has granted permission to proceed with prosecution of senior officials involved in vigilance and corruption cases;

(b) if so, how many such officials are involved in corrupt cases;

(c) how many are being reported to Government about the officials relating to corrupt practices every year; and

(d) what speedy measures are being taken to check corruption in Government departments?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The Central Vigilance Commission advises the Government on the vigilance cases referred to it by the Government. The powers to grant permission for sanction of prosecution of Government officials vests with the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

(b) and (c) During the last three years (2000, 2001 & 2002) the Central Vigilance Commission has informed that it advised prosecution in respect of 52 cases involving 54 officials.

(d) Government is fully alive to the need to root out corruption and to ensure transparency in its dealings as far as possible to build confidence amongst the general public and also foreign investors. Government has introduced checks and balances for bringing about accountability and for ensuring efficiency in the administration. The Secretary of each Department, assisted by Chief Vigilance Officer has been made responsible for ensuring probity and integrity in his Department. Government has also taken several measures to ensure transparency such as setting up of 90 facilitation centres, as on 1.12.2002 in various Ministries/Departments/Organisations to provide information and assistance to the public regarding schemes and procedures of the organizations concerned. Also 71 Central Government Organisations have published Citizen's Charters reflecting the commitment of the concerned Ministries, Departments or agencies to provide services within the time-frame specified. Some Ministries and Departments have also developed their own websites for promotion of e-governance. The Freedom of Information Act, 2002 has also been enacted for ensuring greater transparency, openness and accountability in the functioning of the public authorities.

**Commissioning of on-going hydel projects**

1486. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) which of the on-going hydel projects are likely to be commissioned by the end of December, 2003;

(b) the quantum of additional power generation estimated out of these projects; and

(c) target for hydel power generation addition for the year 2003-2004?